As many of you know, the Biometric Consortium Conference planned for September 12-14, 2001, was postponed because of the tragic events of September 11. We are grateful that many of the speakers scheduled for September are able to participate in this re-scheduled conference. In addition to many of the sessions planned for September, this conference will cover topics related to the utilization of biometric solutions for homeland security including improving airport security, strengthening our national borders, utilizing biometrics for travel documents, visas and for preventing ID theft as well as accelerating biometric standards developments. Now, more than ever, there is a wide range of interest in biometrics across federal, state, and local governments. Congressional offices and a large number of organizations involved in many markets are addressing the important role that biometrics will play in identifying and verifying the identity of individuals and protecting national assets.

There are many needs for biometrics beyond Homeland Security. Enterprise-wide network security infrastructures, secure electronic banking, investing and other financial transactions, retail sales, law enforcement, and health and social services are already benefiting from these technologies. A range of new applications can been found in such diverse environments as amusement parks, banks, credit unions, and other financial organizations, Enterprise and Government networks, passport programs and driver licenses, colleges, physical access to multiple facilities (e.g., nightclubs) and school lunch programs.

Over the next two and a half days, representatives from the sponsoring organizations and over forty presenters will address a range of topics including business cases, commercial and Government applications, biometrics research, testing and evaluation, biometric assurance, emerging standards, security and policy. Assessment of biometric technologies and solutions in both Government and the Enterprise will also be discussed. In addition, over fifty-five exhibitors will provide technology demonstrations during the course of the conference.

We want to thank everyone that contributed to making this conference a success. The conference would not be possible without the support of the sponsoring organizations: NSA, NIST, DoD Biometrics Management Office, GSA Federal Technology Service - Center for Smart Card Solutions and the West Virginia Development Office. Special thanks are due to NSA and NIST management and staff that collaborated with us in the organization and logistics for this conference. Thanks are also due to BAE Systems and Booz Allen Hamilton staff for their efforts in making this conference a success. As always, we welcome any comments or suggestions on how to improve the conference.

Please enjoy the conference and please do not miss the exhibits and technology demonstrations.

    Jeffrey S. Dunn   Fernando L. Podio
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